

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 015201 TOSEC 010079

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA OF MEXICO TO
PRESIDENT FORD ON NARCOTICS

FOR S-MR. BARBIAN FROM ARA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS
REF: SECTO 1020

1. FOLLOWING IS TRANSLATION OF PRESIDENT ECHEVRIA'S
LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD ON MEXICAN PROPOSAL FOR PARALLEL
COMMISSION ON DRUG ABUSE.

2. QUOTE. MR. PRESIDENT: MESSRS. LESTER L. WOLFF AND
BENJAMIN A GILMAN, DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
ACCOMPANIED BY HIS EXCELLENCY JOSEPH JOHN JOVA, YOUR
COUNTRY'S AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO, PAID ME A VISIT LAST
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, AT WHICH TIME WE TOOK UP, AMONG
OTHER SUBJECTS, THE MATTER OF THE INCREASE IN DRUG ABUSE
IN THE UNITED STATES AND IN THE ILLEGAL TRAFFIC IN
NARCOTICS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES BETWEEN OUR TWO
COUNTRIES.

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3. IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE AND SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM, I ASKED MESSRS. WOLFF AND GILMAN TO MEET WITH

ME AGAIN, WHICH WE DID LAST SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC, THE SECRETARIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PUBLIC EDUCATION, AND HEALTH AND WELFARE, AS WELL AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE MEXICAN CENTER OF DRUG ADDICTION STUDIES, WHO HAS CHARGE OF COORDINATING PREVENTIVE, CURATIVE, AND REHABILITATION ACTIVITIES IN THAT FIELD.

4. AS A RESULT OF THOSE TALKS, IT WAS POSSIBLE TO CONFIRM THE EVIDENT INTERACTION THAT EXISTS BETWEEN SUPPLY AND DEMAND AND THE COMPLEXITY OF THE PROBLEM AND OF ITS SOLUTION WHICH TAKES IN WIDELY VARYING SOCIOLOGICAL ASPECTS, INVOLVING EDUCATIONAL FACTORS--INCLUDING THOSE RELATING TO MASS COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA--HEALTH FACTORS, AND OF COURSE ACTION DIRECTED TOWARD THE PROSECUTION OF CRIMES AGAINST HEALTH.

5. IT WAS RECOGNIZED ALSO THAT IN RECENT YEARS, WITH STRICT RESPECT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY OF EACH STATE, THERE HAS BEEN EFFECTIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN EXCELLENT RESULTS IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE DRUG TRAFFIC AND THE USE AND ABUSE OF ILLICIT DRUGS. NONETHELESS, IT IS NECESSARY TO INCREASE OUR JOINT ACTION IN ORDER TO OBTAIN STILL BETTER RESULTS.

6. I PUT FORWARD TO THE U.S. LEGISLATORS THE IDEA OF CREATING TWIN NATIONAL COMMISSIONS, ONE IN EACH OF OUR COUNTRIES, WHICH WOULD UNDERTAKE A STUDY OF ALL ASPECTS OF THIS QUESTION AND PROPOSE SOLUTIONS THAT WOULD ENABLE OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS TO EMBARK ON NEW LINES OF ACTION AND EXPAND THE COORDINATION OF THEIR EFFORTS.

7. IN MY OPINION EACH NATIONAL COMMISSION MIGHT BE COMPOSED OF OFFICIALS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROSECUTION OF CRIMES AGAINST HEALTH, THE ELIMINATION OF THE ILLICIT USE OF NARCOTICS AND OTHER

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DANGEROUS DRUGS, AND THE CURE AND REHABILITATION OF THE VICTIMS OF DRUG ADDICTION. MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE OF THE RESPECTIVE CONGRESSES, AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES OF FAMILY HEADS AND OF THE MASS COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA WOULD ALSO BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMISSIONS.

8. EACH NATIONAL COMMISSION WOULD STUDY THE PROBLEM

AND RECOMMEND ACTIONS, WHICH WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT MEETINGS OF THE TWO COMMISSIONS. THE COMMISSIONS SHOULD

ESTABLISH MACHINERY THAT WOULD ENSURE THE EFFICACY AND CELERITY OF THEIR WORK, POSSIBLY THROUGH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES. THE FREQUENCY OF THEIR MEETINGS WOULD BE AGREED UPON ACCORDING TO THEIR WORK REQUIREMENTS.

9. FOR MY PART, I AM PROCEEDING TO ESTABLISH THE MEXICAN COMMISSION PURSUANT TO THE TERMS STATED ABOVE, IN THE UNDERSTANDING THAT MY GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO ACT INTENSIVELY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE TRAFFIC IN NARCOTICS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THIS PROBLEM, MAINTAINING, AS IT HAS DONE HITHERTO, THE CLOSE COORDINATION EXISTING BETWEEN THE COMPETENT AGENCIES AND ORGANS OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS.

10. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, I TAKE PLEASURE IN PROPOSING THAT YOU CONSIDER THE DESIRABILITY OF ESTABLISHING A UNITED STATES COMMISSION FOR THE PURPOSES STATED ABOVE, WHICH WOULD BE IN CONTACT WITH THE MEXICAN COMMISSION ON A STANDING BASIS.

11. FEELING CERTAIN, AS I DO, THAT THIS PROPOSAL ON A MATTER OF SUCH EXTREME IMPORTANCE TO MANKIND WILL MERIT YOUR SYMPATHETIC RESPONSE, I TAKE THIS OCCASION TO RENEW TO YOU THE ASSURANCE OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION AND PERSONAL ESTEEM. END QUOTE.

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